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SUBJECT: SPANISH DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON CANDIDACY FOR UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

1. (U) The following is an Embassy translation of a diplomatic note that we received from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on February 15 regarding Spain's candidacy for reelection to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to inform that the Spanish Government has decided to present its candidacy for reelection to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in elections to be held in New York in 2005 during the continuation of the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Spain's geographical location as the European Union's external border to the African continent and normally the first point of entry for Spanish-speaking countries is a strategic location on illegal international drug trafficking routes.

In 1985, the Government of Spain established the Government Delegation for the National Drug Plan in response to our nation's political will and its institutional consensus regarding co-responsibility by different government administrations and social organizations. The Plan set forth the principles on which the drug strategy was to be based and remains valid today: social consensus, scientific and technical basis, and appropriate funding. During the twenty years that have elapsed, the National Drug Plan has undergone structural changes in response to the need to adapt to developments in drug-related phenomena.

The ample experience acquired by Spain during this period of time has given rise to a social network in which the activities are carried out by the civil society on the national, regional and local levels.

Additionally, a broad, diversified, professionalized network of care has been consolidated, offering responses to the addict population. A variety of social and labor rehabilitation efforts have been carried out and are solidly based, providing for the generalization of prevention policy and the consolidation of information systems leading to more complete, in-depth knowledge of the realities and consequences of drug use in Spain. Furthermore, a legal framework has been developed in all drug-related areas, and the means and instruments for controlling the drug supply have been reinforced and specialized.

It is also necessary to point out that the priority in demand reduction involves prevention and treating drug use from an early age, where education, training, clear and precise information and the family are central elements in measures taken. Furthermore, special attention is going to be given to developing basic clinical research activities, especially in the area of epidemiology.

In the legal area, the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Prevention and Enforcement of Illegal Drug Trafficking was created in 1988 to be directly involved in criminal proceedings on drug-related charges and the coordination of the activities of the different prosecutor's offices in the area of prevention and enforcement of illegal drug trafficking prevention and enforcement.

The twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in June 1998, approved a political declaration and a series of multi-annual measures, goals and objectives for compliance by the States. In the presence of this important international milestone in dealing with the drug problem, it was considered appropriate to draft the National Strategy on Drugs for 2000-2008 which, based on the unanimous agreement of all the parliamentary groups that at the time made up the joint Congress-Senate Commission for the study of the drug problem, determined the different aspects of the drug phenomenon to be dealt with. This strategy continued the consensus policy that had been in force since the creation of the National Drug Plan and has had very positive effects on the drug addiction policy implemented in Spain.

Spanish international participation has long been quite substantial and involves all the fora to which Spain belongs dealing with the subject of drugs, since one of the fundamental

principles on which a drug policy should be based is constant reinforcement of international cooperation activities.

Spain is a party to the three United Nations Conventions (Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and its Amendment Protocol of 1972, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention on Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances of 1988).

Spain contributes voluntarily to funding United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) programs and projects and contributes to upgrading the training of professionals involved in drug-related areas. Throughout the years, funding for these programs and projects has been substantially increased through the provision of supplementary funds under Law 17/2003, of May 29, regulating the Fund of Assets Seized from Illegal Drug Trafficking and related crimes, Article Two of which provides the possibility of contributing to international cooperation activities.

Spain is, furthermore, a producer of medications that contain narcotic raw materials that come from papaver somniferum and also a major producer of medicines created from synthetic substances.

Lastly, Spain has organized major international conferences on drugs. During the last Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2002, Spain held the Fourth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Meeting of National Drug Coordinators of the European Union.

On the basis of all the above, Spain hopes to be able to count on the valuable support of the Government of the United States for its candidacy for reelection to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Economic and Social Council.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the testimony of its highest consideration."

12. (U) Embassy requests Department's guidance on how to respond to the Spanish MFA diplomatic note.

MANZANARES